

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 5453

USEEC

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, TU
SUBJ: KORUTURK NAMES NEW PRESIDENTIAL CONTINGENT SENATORS

REF: 77 ANKARA 7888

1. ON JULY 25, SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENT
ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF FIVE PRESIDENTIAL
CONTINGENT SENATORS TO REPLACE FIVE SENATORS WHOSE
TERMS (APPOINTIVE) EXPIRED ON JULY 4. PRESIDENT-GENERAL
OF THE FEDERATION OF TURKISH LABOR UNIONS (TURK-IS),
HALIL TUNC, WAS RE-APPOINTED FOR A SECOND SIX-YEAR
TERM. OTHER APPOINTEES ARE: FORMER ADMIRAL AND
PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL ADVISOR FAHRI COKER, RETIRED ADMIRAL
AND FORMER COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF NAVAL FORCES HILMI
FIRAT, MINISTRY OF FINANCE EXPERT ADNAN BASER KAFAOGLU,
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AND ANKARA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR MRS. NERMIN ABDAN
UNAT.

2. BRIEF COMMENT AND BIO DATA ON THE NEW SENATORS
FOLLOW:

A. THE DEPARTMENT HAS EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND ON

TUNC. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE HIS DISASTROUS EFFORTS TO DRAW TURK-IS INTO ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO THE DEMIREL COALITION GOVERNMENT IN THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 1977, TUNC HAS ACHIEVED A SIGNIFICANT COMEBACK. HE HAS JUST CONCLUDED A "SOCIAL AGREEMENT" WITH PRIMIN ECEVIT WHICH APPARENTLY ESTABLISHES A WAGES POLICY FOR A LARGE PORTION OF TURKEY'S UNIONIZED LABOR WITHOUT ACTUALLY IDENTIFYING THE AGREEMENT AS A WAGES POLICY. AT THE SAME TIME, WITH THE SIGNING OF THE "SOCIAL AGREEMENT" THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SPARED LONG AND POTENTIALLY ACRIMONIOUS BARGAINING WITH UNIONS IN THE STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES WHERE MOST CONTRACTS ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL THIS YEAR. TUNC'S SELECTION FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED SECOND TERM HAS BEEN GIVEN THREE POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS LOCALLY: 1) THE APPOINTMENT IS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN TUNC'S POSITION AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES IN TURK-IS IN ORDER TO INSURE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "SOCIAL AGREEMENT"; 2) THERE WAS NO BETTER-QUALIFIED CANDIDATE AVAILABLE FOR THE LABOR QUOTA POSITION; OR, 3) TUNC IS BEING REWARDED FOR HIS COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ACHIEVING THE "SOCIAL AGREEMENT."

B. COKER, A RETIRED ADMIRAL, IS A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COURT OF APPEALS AND HAS SERVED AS LEGAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENTS SUNAY AND CONFIDENTIAL

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KORUTURK. HE WAS BORN IN ISTANBUL IN 1913, COMPLETED THE NAVAL LYCEE IN 1932, AND GRADUATED FROM THE LAW FACULTY OF ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY IN 1935. HE FILLED VARIOUS LEGAL POSITIONS IN THE TURKISH NAVY UNTIL 1962 WHEN HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF REAR ADMIRAL AND MADE HEAD OF THE JUDICIARY AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HE RETIRED IN 1972 AND BECAME PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL ADVISOR. IN 1973, COKER WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BREAKING THE DEADLOCK IN BALLOTING FOR A NEW CHIEF OF STATE WHEN HE PROPOSED AND THEN ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE COMPROMISE CANDIDACY OF THEN-CONTINGENT SENATOR FAHRI KORUTURK.

C. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON HILMI FIRAT, WHO WAS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF TURKISH NAVAL FORCES FROM 1974 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MILITARY LAST YEAR, IS AVAILABLE IN THE BIOGRAPHIC HANDBOOK.

D. KAFAOBLU HAS BEEN SERVING WITH THE TURKISH DELEGATION TO THE U.N, IN GENEVA SINCE 1972. BORN IN YOZGAT IN 1926, HE GRADUATED FROM THE POLITICAL SCIENCES FACULTY OF ANKARA UNIVERSITY IN 1946 AND

JOINED THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. HE HAS BEEN IN THE U.S. TWICE FOR STUDIES: FIRST IN 1953-54 AND AGAIN IN 1963-64, WHEN HE PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ON TAXATION AT HARVARD. HE WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL UNITY FOLLOWING THE 1960 COUP, AND HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. KAFAOGLU SERVED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF REVENUES IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE FROM 1966 TO 1972. AN ENGLISH SPEAKER, HE IS REPORTEDLY A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENT, HALUK BAYULKEN.

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E. MRS. UNAT WAS BORN IN VIENNA IN 1921 AND AT AN EARLY AGE RETURNED TO TURKEY WITH HER PARENTS, SULEYMAN AND MIRIAM SULEYMANOVIC, AS A REFUGEE. AFTER GRADUATION FROM THE LAW FACULTY OF ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY IN 1944, SHE SET UP A PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE AND ALSO WROTE A DAILY COLUMN FOR THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), "ULUS," FROM 1946 TO 1951. MRS. UNAT JOINED THE POLITICAL SCIENCES FACULTY OF ANKARA UNIVERSITY IN 1953 AND BECAME A FULL PROFESSOR IN 1966. UNTIL HER APPOINTMENT AS SENATOR, SHE WAS SERVING AS DEAN OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCES FACULTY'S SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM. SHE

RECENTLY RETURNED TO TURKEY FROM THE U.S. WHERE SHE TAUGHT AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE. IN ADDITION TO HER WORK FOR "ULUS," SHE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE RPP WOMEN'S BRANCH, AND SHE ADDRESSED THE RPP NATIONAL CONVENTION IN 1962. HER HUSBAND, ILHAN UNAT, IS A PROFESSOR AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY. HER FIRST HUSBAND, YAVUZ ABADAN, WAS A HIGHLY RESPECTED PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT ANKARA UNIVERSITY UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1967. A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, MRS. UNAT IS OUTSPOKEN AND LOQUACIOUS. SHE KNOWS GERMAN, ENGLISH AND FRENCH, AND SHE HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY.

3. COMMENT:

A. THE 15 SENATORS NOW SERVING AS PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES HAVE COME FROM A BROAD RANGE OF PROFESSIONS. THE POPULAR IMPRESSION IN TURKEY, HOWEVER, IS THAT CERTAIN CONTINGENT SENATOR POSITIONS ARE RESERVED FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF SPECIAL GROUPS. HALIL TUNC HAS HELD AND NOW WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD THE 'LABOR' POSITION. MRS. UNAT HAS FILLED THE 'WOMAN'S' POSITION VACATED WHEN SENATOR AYDA'S TERM EXPIRED ON JULY 4. WHILE MANY TURKS ASSUME THAT KORUTURK'S APPOINTMENT OF TWO RETIRED ADMIRALS REFLECTS A DESIRE TO REWARD PERSONAL FRIENDS AND FELLOW NAVAL OFFICERS, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE PRESIDENT INTENDED TO RESTORE BALANCE TO THE 'MILITARY' QUOTA WHICH WAS DISRUPTED LAST YEAR WHEN KORUTURK APPOINTED NO FORMER CAREER MILITARY OFFICERS (SEE REFTTEL).

B. IS IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE FIVE NEW SNATORS' APPOINTMENTS. HALIL TUNC IS WIDELY KNOWN TO BE A SUPPORTER OF ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), BUT THE POLITICAL HETEROGENEITY OF TURK-IS MAY IMPOSE SOME LIMITS ON TUNC'S POLITICAL FLEXIBILITY. MRS. UNAT'S AFFILIATION WITH THE RPP IS CLEAR. KAFAOGLU'S POLITICAL LEANINGS CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE NOT EVIDENT, BUT HE IS PROBABLY A JUSTICE PARTY (JP) SUPPORTER. NEITHER MILITARY APPOINTEE HAS A KNOWN POLITICAL AFFILIATION, BUT BOTH ARE PROBABLY

STRONG ATATURKISTS WITH A COMMITMENT TO CONSTITUTIONAL
RULE BY CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT.

C. THE SENATORIAL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED ON
JULY 25 ARE THE LAST WHICH WILL BE MADE BY PRESIDENT
KORUTURK. HIS TERM EXPIRES IN APRIL 1980 (IF HE DOES
NOT RESIGN FOR REASON OF ILL HEALTH BEFOREHAND), AND
THE TERMS OF THE FIVE SENATORS NAMED IN 1974 WILL NOT
EXPIRE UNTIL JUNE OR JULY OF 1980.

D. FIVE OF TURKEY'S SIX PRESIDENTS HAVE COME
FROM MILITARY BACKGROUNDS. ACCORDING TO THE
CONSTITUTION, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES MUST BE
MEMBERS OF EITHER THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OR SENATE.
FIRAT, WHO WAS A POLITICALLY ASTUTE AND VERY CAPABLE
MILITARY OFFICER, PROBABLY HARBORS HIGHER POLITICAL
AMBITIONS, AND THIS APPOINTMENT PUTS HIM IN A
POSITION TO BE A POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
IN 1980. DILLON

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